



Des modes de vie transfrontaliers ? Travail frontalier et vie quotidienne dans l'agglomération trinationale de Bâle – Lausanne, 20-21 octobre

# **Des modes de vie transfrontaliers ? Travail frontalier et vie quotidienne dans l'agglomération trinationale de Bâle**

Cross-border lifestyles?

Cross-border work and daily life in the trinational city of Basel

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# Introduction

## ■ Cross-border work:

- In Switzerland: around 300 000 cross-border workers
- Very important in some regions, especially around Switzerland.
  - Up to 40% of the working population is engaged in cross-border work in some cities
- In Switzerland, many jobs are occupied by cross-border workers in cities located next to the borders
  - Around 25% in Basel, Canton of Geneva or Lugano (TI)
- Main incentives for cross-border work
  - Better-paid jobs
  - Quantity and diversity of jobs
  - Better working conditions



# Introduction

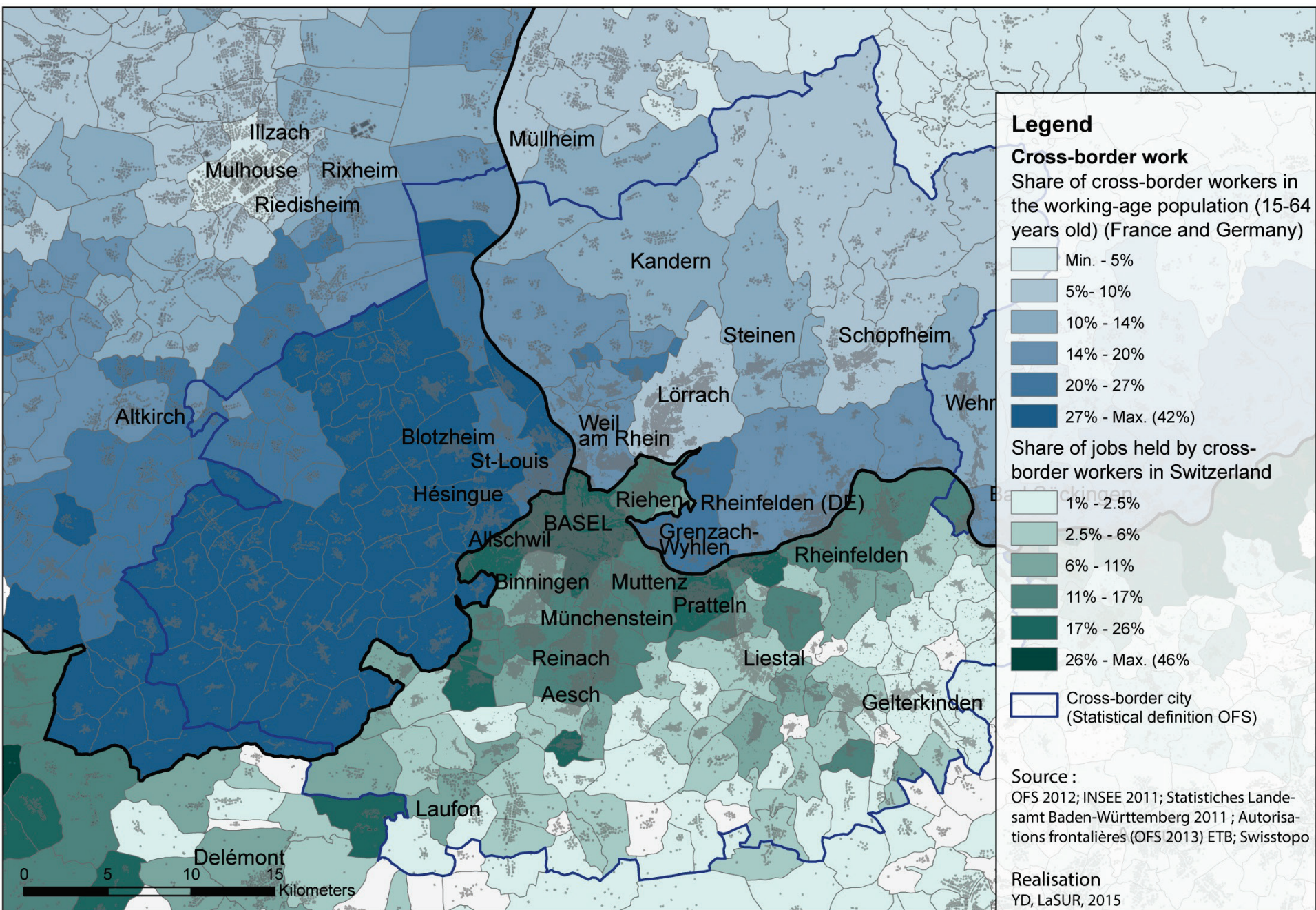
- **Cross-border work causes some tensions in concerned territories**
- **Economic issues**
  - Price increase (housing especially) in neighbouring regions (of Switzerland)
  - Pressure on the job market (unemployment, salary) in Switzerland
- **Environmental issues**
  - Strong development of urban sprawl
  - Motorized traffic
- **Social issues**
  - Tensions between inhabitants of cross-border regions
    - Anti-cross-border worker sentiments



# Methodology and context

- **Mixed methods**
- **Contextual data**
  - Cross-border work, population, economy, mobility, etc.
- **Interviews**
  - 15 interviews with working people (France and Switzerland)
- **Quantitative survey**
  - 1615 inhabitants of the cross-border city (in Switzerland, France and Germany)
- **Trinational city of Basel**
- **820'000 inhabitants (mostly in Switzerland)**
- **Two languages (German and French) and three dialects**
- **High quantity of cross-border movements,**
  - For example : around 70 000 cross-border workers work in the region of Basel



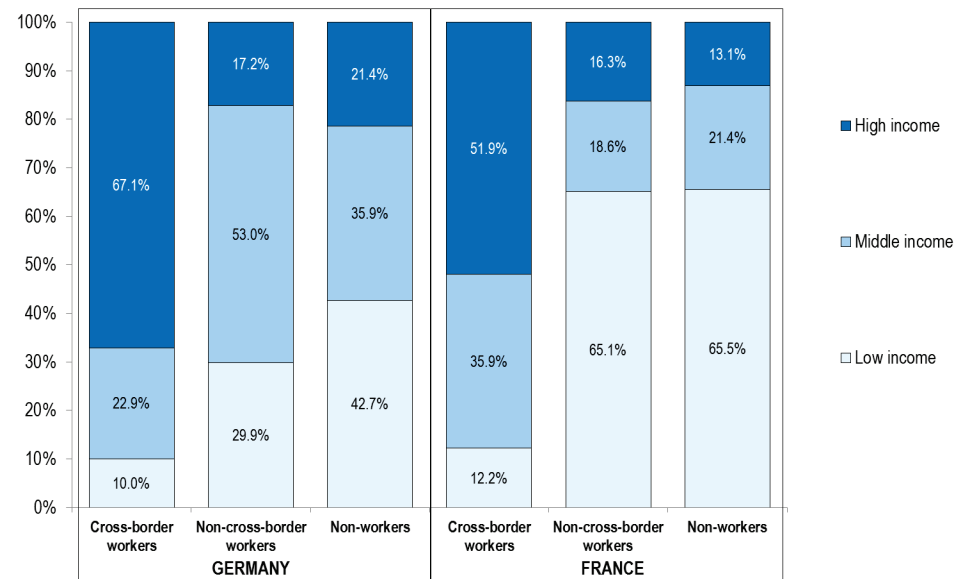




# Living conditions

- **Cross-border work leads to strong financial differences between cross-border workers and non-cross-border workers**
- **Differences between the French and German job markets**
  - Germany : smaller income differences with Switzerland, good working conditions (flexible working hours, high job satisfaction)
  - France : Higher income differences with Switzerland, unattractive working conditions

Income: Differences between cross-border workers and non-cross-border workers

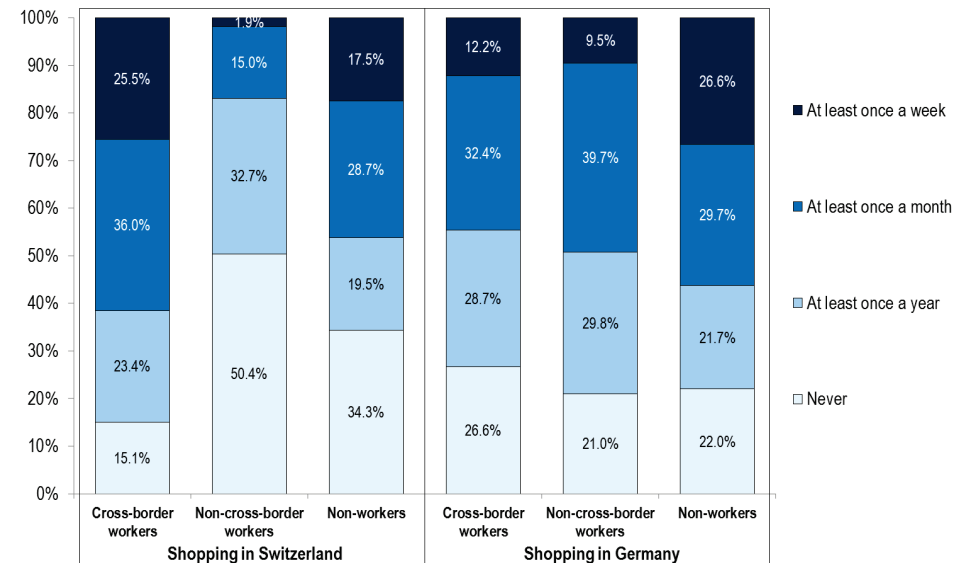




## Daily life: Consumption

- **Cross-border workers shop more in Switzerland**
- **Germans shop foremost in Germany**
  - Few go to France
- **In France, having the possibility to buy in Germany (cheaper products) is a crucial way to get ahead financially for non-cross-border workers**
  - *«Ma sœur et mon beau-frère. Les deux travaillent en Suisse. Eux ils mènent la grande vie, ils ont des bons salaires, un super appart, eux tout va bien. Ils font leurs courses en France. Ils peuvent se le permettre», Quentin, non-frontalier français*

French cross-border shopping (food): Differences between cross-border workers and non-cross-border



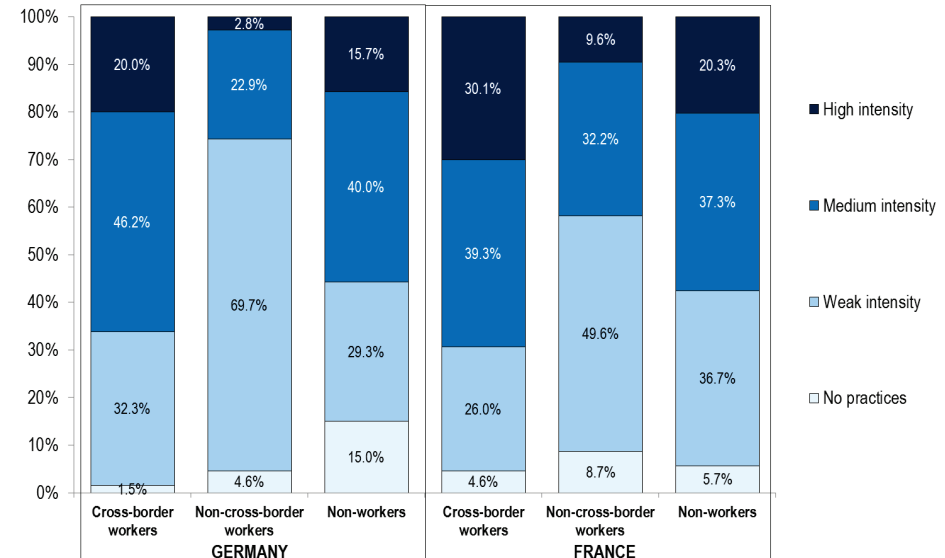




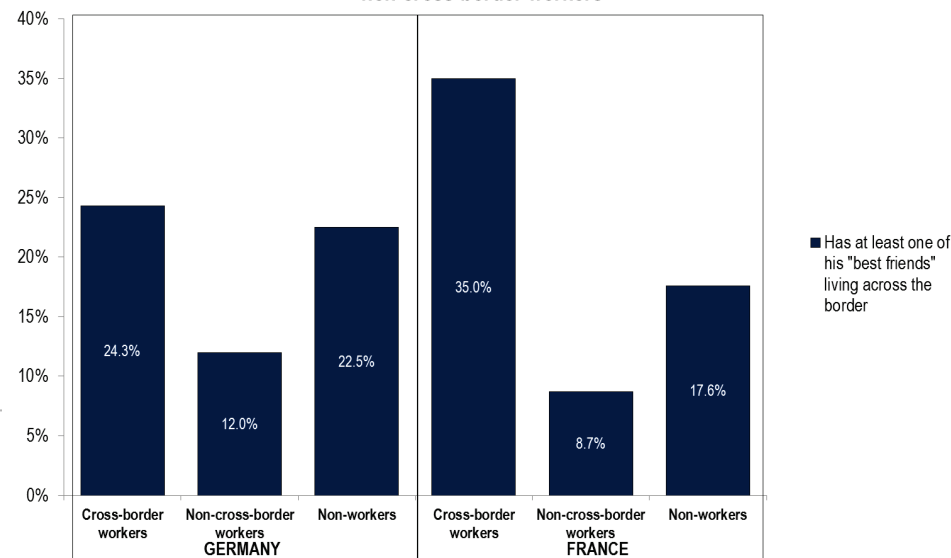
## Daily life: Leisure and social networks

- **Strong differences between cross-border workers and non-cross border workers concerning leisure activities**
- **Switzerland is the main leisure destination**
  - Especially for urban-style leisure : culture, nightlife, shopping, urban walks
- **Germany is attractive, especially for price reasons :**
  - Restaurants/bars : French non-cross-border workers enjoy them especially
- **The French take more advantage of the cross-border territory**
  - A few exceptions because of langue differences
- **Social networks**
  - First and foremost local and national
  - Cross-border workers are more likely to have friends over the border

Intensity of cross-border activities : Differences between cross-border workers and non-cross-border workers



Cross-border social networks: Differences between cross-border workers and non-cross-border workers



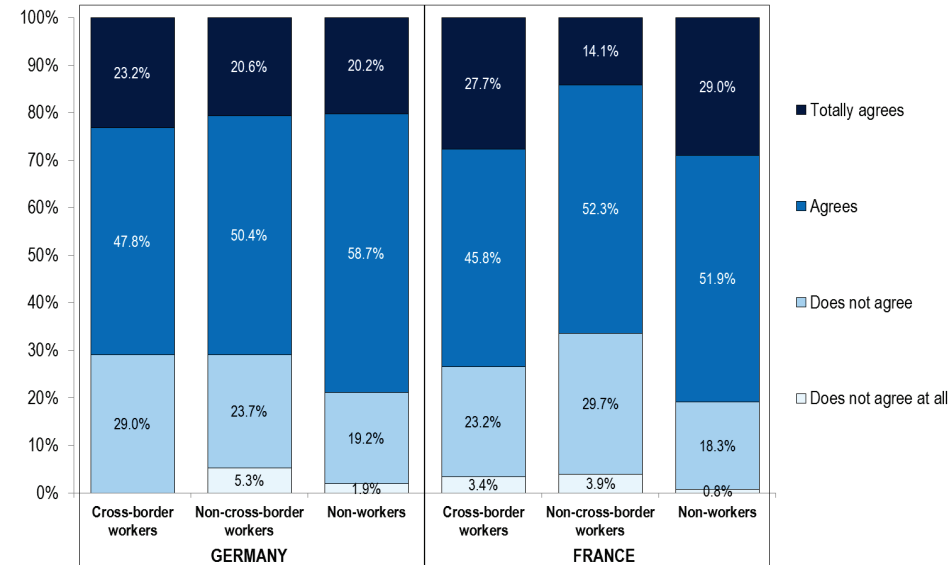




## Daily life in the trilateral city of Basel

- Overall the relations between the inhabitants of the Basel area seem good
- Despite this quite good situation, many risks or challenges have to be highlighted

Attachement to the trilateral city of Basel: Differences between cross-border workers and non-cross-border workers





## Challenge/Risk

### Living conditions: cross-border workers – non-cross-border workers

- **Living conditions differ strongly different between cross-border workers and non-cross-border workers**
  - Non-cross-border workers with low income are less attached to the trinational city, especially in France
    - Jealousy regarding living conditions of cross-border workers
    - The possibility of shopping in Germany lower this problem
      - What about people who are not able to get there (in car) ?
- **What are long-term effects?**
  - What would be the impact of a strong increase of cross-border workers from Germany?
  - Accessibility to Switzerland becomes more and more difficult for low-income populations
    - The richest are more likely to have more relations at the cross-border scale than 5 years ago, for the others cross-border relations are more likely not to evolve or even to diminish
    - Increase in differences in lifestyles of cross-border workers and non-cross-border workers
    - Risk for the cross-border city cohesion?

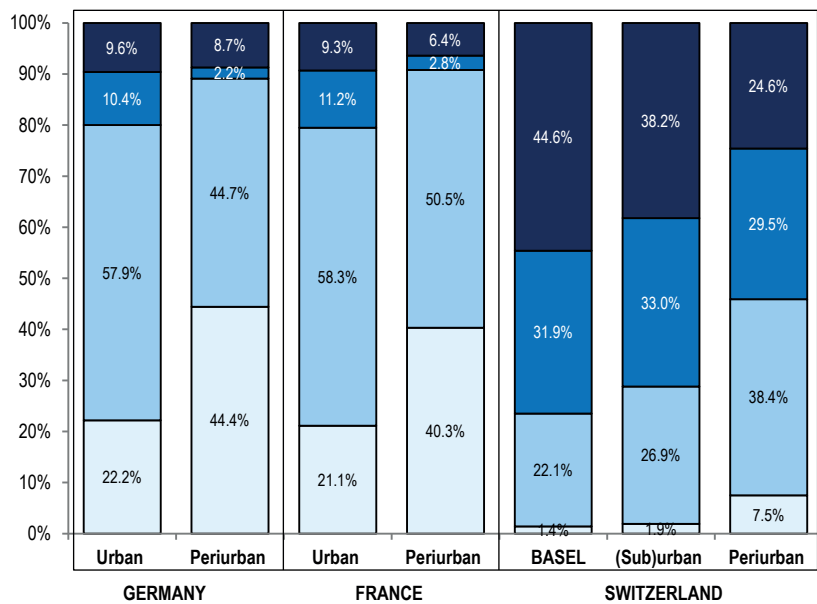


# Challenge/Risk Mobility

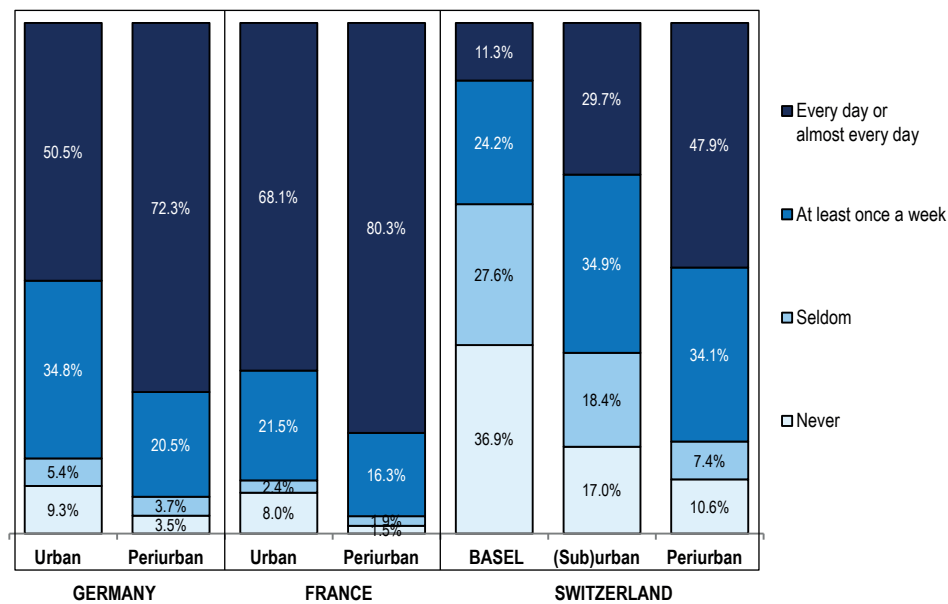
## ■ Mobility : one of the most critical aspects

- Traffic : Most noticeable element of cross-border work
- Huge differences in mobility behaviour and expectations between Swiss on one side, and German and French on the other
  - Cross-border workers' car traffic is a source of tension

Public transport use



Car use





## Challenge/Risk Mobility

- **Situation is “less bad” than elsewhere**
  - Basel area: from France : 85% of trips are made by car ; from Germany : 80%
  - Geneva region (from France) : 92% of trips are made by car
  - Swiss-French Jura (canton of Neuchâtel) : 95% of trips are made by car
- **Cross-border public transport lines are rather good in comparison with other cross-border cities**
  - S-Bahn, tramway, bus
  - Intra-national lines in France and Germany are ill-suited
- **Problem encouraging modal shift and improving the situation**
  - 80% of cross-border workers travelling by car have access to a private parking space...



## Conclusion

- **Interest of looking at the multiple sides of daily life**
  - Issues in cross-border cities can't be reduced to cross-border work
- **Lifestyles in the Basel area integrate a strong cross-border dimension, especially among cross-border workers (but not only)**
- **Even if the situation of the Basel area is rather calm in comparison, it is crucial to consider the specific risk/issues that are linked to the presence of a national border**





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**Thank you for your attention!**



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